

## **Public Notice – Environmental Project**

### **PURPOSE OF NOTICE:**

The Department of Environmental Quality seeks public comment on the state's response to the environmental aspects of a proposed project in Virginia coastal waters.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

July 27, 2009 to August 21, 2009

### **TYPE OF RESPONSE:**

Federal Consistency Determination

DEQ is reviewing a proposed federal fisheries management action to determine if it is consistent with the U.S. Coastal Zone Management Act. The act seeks to protect the quality of air, water or other natural resources in Virginia's coastal area.

### **NAME OF AGENCY PROPOSING THE PROJECT :**

DOC/NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The National Marine Fisheries Service proposes to amend the Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Plan to include a comprehensive suite of management measures for commercial gillnet gear in the new England and Mid-Atlantic areas. In the Mid-Atlantic, this proposed action includes a modification to the current HPTRP tie-down requirement as requested by gillnet fishermen using large mesh gear. The action also includes the addition of a new management area, the Mudhole South Management Area, within the waters off the New Jersey Management Area. Measures in this new area include a seasonal closure and more stringent gear modifications for large and small mesh gillnets. The suite of management measures included in the proposed action are intended to reduce harbor porpoise serious injury and mortality due to incidental interactions with commercial gillnet gear in the Mid-Atlantic area below the PBR level. The federal consistency determination submitted by NMFS for the amendment finds the proposed action consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the Virginia Coastal Resources Management Program (also called the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program).

### **HOW TO COMMENT:**

DEQ accepts comments from the public by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. The public may review the project documents at DEQ's central office in Richmond.

### **CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

NAME; John E. Fisher  
DEQ Central Office  
Office of Environmental Impact Review  
629 East Main Street, Room 633  
Richmond, Virginia, 23219;

Phone: (804) 698-4339  
Fax: (804) 698-4319  
E-mail: [john.fisher@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:john.fisher@deq.virginia.gov)